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now's account of the commission form of government is fair, but it lacks in several important details—most conspicuously in failing to show that nominations to office under such a form of government are made by petitions, although that general question has a paragraph devoted to it in the interesting chapter on The Participation of the People. He does not refer to the elimination of party designations—a most interesting experiment.

Sufficient instances have been adduced to justify the conclusions that where modern phases are concerned the perspective of the book is distorted or defective, and that the author's sympathies are almost ultra conservative or reactionary. Nevertheless as shown in his concluding paragraphs he appreciates the gravity of the situation, the complexities of modern city life and the necessity for comprehensive efforts to meet the situation.

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF.

Philadelphia.

A Modern City: Providence, Rhode Island and its Activities.

Edited by WILLIAM KIRK. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1909. Pp. 363. \$2.70.)

Professor Kirk and his collaborators have tried an interesting experiment with a considerable degree of success. They have sought through a coöperative process to present the physical characteristics, the racial elements, the commercial and industrial growth, the labor conditions, the governmental, financial, educational, aesthetic, philanthropic, and religious activities, of what they call a typical American city. In passing it should be pointed out that students of modern municipal conditions will hesitate about classifying a city with the history, traditions and characteristics of Providence as typically American; but no one will deny that it has had an interesting and on the whole an instructive career. As President Faunce in his introduction says, "Providence is a city fair to the eye, goodly to dwell in, and well worth the study to which the following chapters point the way." And being fair to the eye it is somewhat surprising that so little is said (only about two pages) concerning the splendid park system the city is building up under an unusually intelligent and carefully guided plan.

The chapters on Finance, Industry and Labor are particularly good as are those on Geography and Education. Under "Labor" (contributed by the editor) we have some interesting comments on the development of trade union activity. He points out that in certain industries such development has been retarded by rapidly increasing migration from Eastern and Southern Europe, but nevertheless "with capital and labor more willing to enter into joint agreements in the interest of industrial peace and social well being, with an enlightened trade union policy in the hands of able, conservative leaders, Providence wage earners may look forward with confidence to an uninterrupted advance in their economic and social standards."

The proportions of the book are good, although if one is especially interested in any one phase, he naturally wants further data and the book is bare of footnotes, authorities or bibliography. Under the necessities of the case there has been some overlapping, but not sufficient to interfere with the enjoyment of reading the book as a whole.

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF.

Philadelphia.

Housing Reform. By LAWRENCE VEILLER. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1910. Pp. ix, 213. \$1.25.)

Mr. Veiller's little hand book on housing reform is an excellent popular presentation of a knotty and difficult subject. The author has given the public in concise and readable form a suggestive theory of housing reform. No one could bring to this task longer practical experience or more intimate acquaintance with the problems involved. Mr. Veiller has been successively Secretary of the Tenement House Committee of the New York Charity Organization Society, Secretary of the New York State Tenement House Commission of 1900, which drafted the present law, First Deputy Tenement Commissioner of the City of New York, and is now Director of the Department for the Improvement of Social Conditions of the New York Charity Organization Society, Secretary and Director of the National Housing Association.

In the first few chapters the author deals with the problems of